

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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October 17, 2003

The Honorable Robert Card
Under Secretary of Energy, Science and the Environment
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Card:

This Committee has been anxiously awaiting your Department's report on the Administration's climate change technology programs. Because of conflicting information from the Administration, we are confused about what these programs encompass. We would like for you to deliver the report by the end of October, or explain to us in writing why you cannot do so.

As you know, on June 11, 2001, President Bush announced an agenda to advance climate change science, promote the development of climate technologies to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and implement clean energy technologies. As part of his statement, he announced a National Climate Change Technology Initiative (NCCTI). The President directed the Secretary of Energy and Secretary of Commerce to recommend improvements in the existing climate research and technology programs across the Federal government.

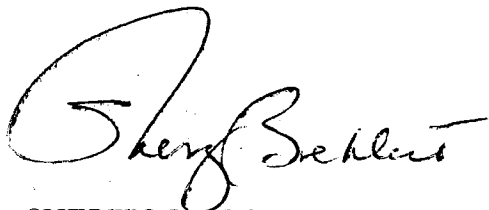
In February 2002, in response to Committee inquiries, you defined NCCTI as "The President's FY '03 Budget [request for] \$40 million within the Department of Energy." The President's budget request, however, was short on specifics. In an elaboration on our question, you noted that, "Specific research areas are being identified through an interagency review process. The NCCTI will build on an existing base of research and development in climate change technologies, primarily at the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture. A complete report on the findings and recommendations of the NCCTI will be issued soon."

In April of 2002, this Committee asked for the results of that review. On July 10, 2002, you responded to a question from the Committee that "NCCTI is *not* a \$40 million initiative. NCCTI is a comprehensive review and ongoing process, coordinated across all agencies, aimed at focusing Federal technology R&D on the President's climate change goals, both near- and long-term... At DOE, the amount of R&D funding falling under the advisory purview of interagency NCCTI process and directly related to climate change technology development included in the President's FY 2003 Budget Request amounts to \$1.6 billion."(emphasis added.)

On February 13, 2003, you testified before the Committee that the Department of Energy funds more than 90 percent of the technology research. Despite this, for over two years, the Department has not been able to release a report outlining the Administration's climate change technology program or the criteria for selection of competing technologies for inclusion in the program, much less recommendations for improvement or a strategic plan. The Department has also failed to provide details about the proposed climate change technology solicitation, and details of how the funds will be awarded.

At the February hearing you indicated that, after repeated delays, the report on the Administration's climate change technology portfolio would be available "by summertime" of this year, but summer has come and gone.

It is unclear why it has taken more than two years to define this Presidential priority. If the report will not be available by the end of October, please respond immediately with an explanation for the further delay. Additionally, please provide the committee with a strategic plan for the climate technology program – or at least a timeline for its development – and a description of the selection criteria for the climate technology solicitation.



SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
Chairman, Committee on Science

Sincerely,



JUDY BIGGERT
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy

SB/jb

Cc: David W. Conover
Director of the National Climate Change Technology Initiative
Renewable Energy

The Honorable Rick Dearborn
Assistant Secretary for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Affairs